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COMMISSION ON TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS
Twentieth session
Geneva, 2-11 May 1994
Agenda item 8

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME ON TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS AND CONSIDERATION OF FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION

Draft resolution submitted by the Chairman
Mr. Marino Baldi (Switzerland)

Integration of the Commission on Transnational Corporations into the institutional machinery of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

The Commission on Transnational Corporations,

Noting that the Economic and Social Council in resolution E/1993/49 decided "that the Commission should review its future activities at its twentieth session and, if appropriate, make recommendations to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, in the context of the ongoing restructuring of the United Nations in the economic and social fields",

Having considered at its twentieth session in May 1994 its future activities, recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

DECISION ON THE FUTURE OF THE COMMISSION ON TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution E/1993/49 of ____ July 1993,

Bearing in mind the report of the Commission on Transnational Corporations on its twentieth session; 1994,

Recognizing the need for improved United Nations system efficiency and effectiveness in addressing international investment issues and recognizing that such improvements are attainable through improved rationalization both of United Nations intergovernmental sessions and of United Nations Secretariat resources,

Decides to recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

The integration of the Commission on Transnational Corporations into the institutional machinery of UNCTAD

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 47/212 of 6 May 1993, taken within the context of the ongoing restructuring of the United Nations in the economic and social fields, endorsing the Secretary-General's decision to consolidate all activities related to transnational corporations into UNCTAD,

Reviewing ECOSOC resolution 1913 (LVII) of 5 December 1974 and the UNCTAD VIII Cartagena Commitment of February 1992, and United Nations General Assembly resolution 47/183 of ___ December 1993 regarding UNCTAD as the most appropriate focal point, within the United Nations proper, for the integrated treatment of development and interrelated issues in key areas including trade, finance including investment, services and technology in the interests of all countries, particularly those of developing countries;

Realizing, for the promotion of global economic growth and development, the key role of international investment as those of other international market-driven capital flows;

Identifying the unique value to the international community of United Nations intergovernmental deliberations on such issues;

Recognizing the need for improved United Nations system efficiency and effectiveness in addressing international investment issues and recognizing that such improvements are attainable through improved rationalization both of United Nations intergovernmental sessions and of United Nations Secretariat resources;

Considering the 1993 relocation of the Division on Transnational Corporations and Management of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Development to the United Nations Office at Geneva's Secretariat for the

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as the Division for Transnational Corporations and Investment;

Noting the work of the Commission over its 20 sessions and that, in recent years, the activities of the Commission have placed greater emphasis on the contribution of transnational corporations to economic growth and development; strengthening cooperation between host developing countries and transnational corporations; facilitating flows of foreign direct investment; and exploring linkages between capital flows, technology dissemination and acquisitions and trade in goods and services; and that this shift has increased common elements between these activities and those of the UNCTAD Trade and Development Board and its subsidiary bodies:

Mindful of the need to avoid unnecessary duplication of work among United Nations bodies;

1. Decides that the Commission on Transnational Corporations should become a Commission of the Trade and Development Board, and be renamed the Commission on International Investment and Transnational Corporations;

2. Requests the UNCTAD Trade and Development Board to address urgently the question of orienting the programme of work of the Commission on the basis of recommendations made by the Commission on Transnational Corporations at its twentieth session, the Trade and Development Board should orient the work in such a way as to attract whenever possible attendance of relevant senior policy officials, as well as private sector representatives, to involve:

(a) Promoting the exchange of views and experiences among interested governments, businesses, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, trade unions and experts on issues relating to international investment, transnational corporations and private enterprise development;

(b) Reviewing and providing guidance to the Secretariat on researching and publishing information on policies, programmes and developments related to international investment and transnational corporations;

(c) Reviewing and providing guidance to the Secretariat on providing technical assistance to governments interested in establishing more open investment regimes and attracting more foreign investment, and in support of private enterprise development;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to restore the full resources of the programme on transnational corporations as originally appropriated in the Programme Budget for the Biennium 1994-1995 by General Assembly resolution 48/228;

4. Invites Member States and interested parties to increase financial support for technical cooperation, consultative and advisory services, training, research and information activities in the field of foreign investment;

5. Decides further that the Commission will keep under review the work of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting, whose terms of reference remain unchanged in all other respects, and whose next session is to be held in Geneva in the first half of 1995;

6. Decides that the first session of the Commission should be held in Geneva in the first half of 1995.